

5/6/15 Update on Sirenusa Condo Methyl Bromide Release, Cruz Bay, St. John

On 4/27/15 an EPA OSC, ERT, and contractor support re-moved to St. John to continue clearing activities in “J” Lower. The work involved ventilation on the unit with high velocity fans and the use of carbon absorption units. These activities concluded on 5/1. A 24-hour sampling event was conducted in “J” lower on 5/1-2. Results revealed that the concentration of Methyl Bromide is still above the Reference Concentration (RfC) of 1.3 ppbv. Unit “J” upper is under the RfC.

On 5/1 RPB participated on a conference call with representatives from ATSDR, VI DPNR and VI DOH, to discuss using the RfC of 1.3 ppbv as the clearance value for the Siranusa units. The discussion involved an explanation by ATSDR as to how the RfC was derived. It was also discussed that the ultimate decision to clear the individual units will more than likely be a joint decision between DOH and DPNR.

There are currently no EPA resources on Site. The property manager for the Siranusa complex has continued to ventilate “J” lower unit throughout this week. It is expected that 1 OSC, 1 ERT and 2 SERAS contractors will move to the Site the week of 5/11. Once there the units will continue to be ventilated and will undergo an additional round of 24-hr Summa canister sampling. Additional grab samples will also be taken.

The REOC continues working with EPA Pesticides and Toxic Substances Branch to evaluate options for management of existing stocks of the fumigant. Stocks of Methyl Bromide have been identified at facilities on St. Thomas and St. Croix, consisting of one cylinder at each of two facilities. On 4/30 CID completed over-packing of the cylinders on both St. Thomas and St. Croix. CID/DOJ are currently arranging for the transport of the containers off island.

R2 REOC remains the point of contact for all EPA’s activities related to this incident.

EPA is still working cooperatively with DPNR, EPA CID, DOJ, ATSDR, USVI DOH and the condo complex management company.